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ABSTRACT

This book addresses African American identity and communication and articulates how African Americans define themselves and membership in their group as well as how they percent intra- and inter-ethnic communication. Communication is viewed as a socially constructed process that revolves around membership in ethnic cultures. They explicate core symbols, prescriptions, problematic communication, code, conversation, community, and ethnic identity as sensitizing constructs in African American communication. The first chapter examines the emergent and problematic nature of ethnic culture as expressed in symbols, meanings, and norms. Chapter 2 discusses membership in African American ethnic culture, synthesizing information from social and psychological processes in order to understand the notions of self and identity, then applies these notions to ethnic identity, particularly that of African Americans. Chapter 3 summarizes information on African American language codes and communication style. Chapter 4 focuses on appropriate and effective communication among African Americans as well as between in-group and out-group members. The final chapter synthesizes ethnic identity, communication style, and competence and suggests applications and pragmatic issues in African American communication. The Communication Theory of Identity as a framework for interpreting previous research and guiding future endeavors is presented, including suggestions for future directions. The information in this book is a helpful resource to educators with African American students. Contains over 475 references and an authors index. (GLR)

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